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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,433	11/03/2003	Jung-Keun Ahn	P56975	1520

7590 10/18/2005
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Suite 300
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Washington, DC 20005-1202

EXAMINER

LONEY, DONALD J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,433

Applicant(s)

AHN ET AL.

Examiner

Donald Loney

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/03/03, 06/02/04, 12/8/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. In response to the applicants' election, dated August 3, 2005, the examiner has withdrawn the restriction requirement and all claims will be examined.

Drawings

2. It appears from the Specification that Figures 1 and 2 are that of the prior art, therefore, Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by either Ko et al (2004/0056597) or Kang (2005/0023979)

Both of the above teach a plasma display as recited wherein dummy ribs are formed outside the display area. Refer to 36a-3d and 36f in the figures of Ko et al. Refer to 21 and 21' in the figures of Kang. The applicants' recitation that the dummy ribs be able to withstand sandblasting does not structurally distinguish the claims from the prior art, which teaches dummy ribs, since this is only a matter of degree. One could lightly sandblast which would not effect the dummy ribs.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any of Togawa (5844639), Kimura (5886467) or JP 2001-160360.

All of the above teach a plasma display as recited wherein dummy ribs are formed outside the display area. Refer to figures 4 and 6E showing dummy ribs 11 and 13 respectively in Togawa. Refer to claims 7-9 in Kimura. Refer to figure 2, element 11 in JP 2001-160360 along with paragraph [0009]-[0012] in the Detailed Description thereof, of which the examiner has supplied an English translation thereof. The applicants' recitation that the dummy ribs be able to withstand sandblasting does not structurally distinguish the claims from the prior art, which teaches dummy ribs, since this is only a matter of degree. One could lightly sandblast which would not effect the dummy ribs.

6. Claims 1, 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (64000080).

Tanaka teaches a plasma display as recited wherein dummy ribs are formed outside the display area. Refer to figures 1 and 4 showing dummy ribs 7, 8 and 9. This rejection was made to specifically address claims 1 and 5 since dummy rib 8, which appears shorter than ribs 7 and 9, can be considered the reinforcing rib which is different than the other dummy ribs as recited. The applicants' recitation that the dummy ribs be able to withstand sandblasting does not structurally distinguish the claims from the prior art, which teaches dummy ribs, since this is only a matter of degree. One could lightly sandblast which would not effect the dummy ribs.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of Ko et al, Kang, Togawa, Kimura, or JP 2001-160360 in view of Yoo (6090464).

The primary references teach the invention substantially as recited except for the reinforcing ribs being of a closed ring polygonal structure. See the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection above.

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Yoo teaches that a closed ring polygonal or circular structure 23 can be used to reinforce and space two substrates in a display device. Refer to figure 2 along with the Abstract and column 2, line 24 through column 3, line 53.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the primary references to use a closed ring polygonal or circular structure to reinforce the spacing of the substrates, as taught by Yoo, motivated by the fact Yoo teaches this structure used for the same purpose as the primary references. With regards to claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15 and 17-20 it would have been obvious to use the varying different structures, or particular numbers of sets of ribs, since this would only involve a change in shape or size of the ribs, which generally is considered within ordinary skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04IV.

9. Claims 2-4, 6-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Yoo.

The primary reference teaches the invention substantially as recited except for the reinforcing ribs being of a closed ring polygonal structure. See the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection above.

Yoo teaches that a closed ring polygonal or circular structure 23 can be used to reinforce and space two substrates in a display device. Refer to figure 2 along with the Abstract and column 2, line 24 through column 3, line 53.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the primary reference to use a closed ring polygonal or circular structure to reinforce the spacing of the substrates, as taught by Yoo, motivated

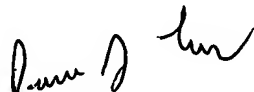
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by the fact Yoo teaches this structure used for the same purpose as the primary references. With regards to claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15 and 17-20 it would have been obvious to use the varying different structures, or particular numbers of sets of ribs, since this would only involve a change in shape or size of the ribs, which generally is considered within ordinary skill in the art. See MPEP 2144.04IV.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald Loney whose telephone number is (571) 272-1493. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri. 8AM-4PM, flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Donald Loney
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

DJL:D.Loney
10/14/05

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: English translation of JP 2001-160360.